



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.2413 | FAX (517) 373.5144

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/allen/

For Immediate Release
October 19, 2005

Contact: Jamie Callahan
1-866-525-5637

Purple Heart recipients join Sen. Allen in supporting legislation allowing for a monument in their honor

LANSING – A bill allowing a monument near the state Capitol honoring Purple Heart recipients was unanimously approved by the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs today, announced Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City.

“Purple Heart recipients risked or gave their lives while fighting to protect freedom and democracy,” Allen said. “They deserve to have a monument commemorating their dedication and sacrifice.”

Sponsored by Allen, Senate Bill 764 will allow a monument to be placed in Veterans Memorial Park, which is located at the state Capitol complex in Lansing.

Testifying in support of the bill, Allen was joined by his constituent and Petoskey resident, Ronald Knapp, department adjutant for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Michigan. Additionally, several other veterans and Purple Heart recipients from around the state attended the hearing to show their support for the monument.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States who are wounded in combat, and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. The medal is specifically a combat decoration.

The legislation was requested by the Military Order of the Purple Heart – Department of Michigan, which will also cover the expenses of the monument’s placement. The national organization is seeking to place identical monuments at each state capitol. To date, monuments have been placed at 43 state capitols across the nation.

According to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the honor is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first American award made available to the common soldier. It was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by one of the world's most famed and best-loved heroes – General George Washington.

“I was touched to hear the heartfelt testimony of these veterans,” Allen said. “Taking all of their sacrifices into consideration, this is the least we can do to recognize and honor these great soldiers.”

SB 764 will now head to the full Senate for consideration.

###

Editor's note: Audio comments from Sen. Allen may be downloaded from the Michigan Senate Republican Majority Multi-Media Link web site later today at:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/index.htm>

Editor's note: A photo of Sen. Allen and members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart will be available later today on the Web at:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Allen/Allen.htm>